Large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources

2140. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States wa-, in-lging in large scale smuggling of India's . genetic resources and then patenting them to tne detriment of our ecoiomy; and

(b) the measures taken to check such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRl YOOINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No complaint has been received; .genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

Technology Development Mission on oU seeds

2141. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleaded to state:

(a) whether the Technology Development Mission on oil seeds propose to encourage palm oil plantation to en- courage palm oil porduction;

(b) if so, the action takeia on a request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for fraancial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) when the sanction fe expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHP.1 YOGINDER K. ALAGH) (a) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage cultivation.of Oil Palm, Government is providing assistance to selected States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely. Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for planting material, cultivation during gestation period, drip irrigation installation, training of extension staff and farmers, publicity & extension and establishment including staff. Besides, Govt, is alsff providin,g financial assistance for Re-Search and Development Programmes on Oil Palm as well as for setting up dc-•monstratioo processing units of Oil Palm for the transfer of technology under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Resrarch and Develooment in Post Harvest Technology *ki* Oilseeds and Pulses.

(b) Govt, has not received any neqtmt from Govt, of Andhra Pradesh for finam-cial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh under the Mission Fro-gramme, referred to above.

(c) Does not arise.

Techncdoical self reliance by CSR. Laboratories

2142. DR. D. VBNKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) thei proigraouaes of GSIR labora tories aiming at technological Sdf re liance;

(b) technical consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Hian-power engaged for the purpose,'

(c) whether the consultancy servicet remain underutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATC IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER *K.* ALAGH): (a) In its 'vision & strategy CSIR 2001' document CSIR has Minnciat-ed its strategy for technological self reliance inter alia focussing on;